A FLEETWAY LIBRARY

WAR PICTURE LIBRARY

No 243

1/-

TROUBLE SQUAD

EXTRA..! EXTRA..! EXTRA..!

TOPS in holiday reading...

BATTLE
PICTURE LIBRARY
HOLIDAY SPECIAL

WAR
PICTURE LIBRARY
HOLIDAY SPECIAL

4 *all-action picture-stories in EACH issue!*

ON SALE FROM 14th MAY

TROUBLE SQUAD

© Fleetway Publications Ltd., 1964

Chapter 1. Fight with Pride

HE WAS HARD, EVEN MERCILESS—YET THE MEN HE TRAINED RESPECTED HIM.
EXHAUSTED? WHAT THE HECK DO YOU MEAN? YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO BE EXHAUSTED IN THE GUARDS! HOLD YOUR HEAD UP! SWING THOSE ARMS!

WHEN THE BATTALION HAD THEIR FIRST TASTE OF BATTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TUNISIA, SERGEANT JIM SCARDEN'S PLATOON WERE AS STEADY AS VETERANS. UNDER MURDEROUS FIRE, THEIR DISCIPLINE HELD THEM ROCK-STEADY.
UP AND AT 'EM, THE GUARDS!

Trouble Squad

THEN THE GUARDS WERE THROUGH, FIGHTING THEIR WAY CLEAN INTO THE VILLAGE ...

IT WAS A MURDEROUS AFFAIR, WITH THE GUARDS SHOOTING AND BOMBING THEIR WAY FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE.
TOSS ONE IN THERE, SMITHY. THEN WE'LL RUSH IT!

Trouble Squad

THE BIG SERGEANT STOLE OUT TO ONE SIDE IN A WIDE CIRCLE AND THEN RUSHED THE GERMAN GUNNERS FROM THE FLANK. HIS TOMMY GUN HAMMERED DEAFENINGLY.
AAGH!

THIS WAS THE LAST STRONGPOINT OF RESISTANCE. WITHIN MINUTES, THE WHOLE OF THE VILLAGE WAS IN THE GUARDS' HANDS. GENERAL STOLTZ, THE GERMAN CORPS COMMANDER, GAVE URGENT ORDERS.
THE ENGLANDERS OBVIOUSLY HOLD THE ENTIRE VILLAGE NOW. WE'VE GOT TO GET IT BACK, GERHARDT! IT OUTFLANKS OUR MAIN POSITION. TELL MARCKS TO THROW IN HIS PARATROOPS AND BACK THEM UP WITH ARMOUR.
JAWOHL, HERR GENERAL!

THE GUARDS, KNOWING THAT A COUNTER-ATTACK WAS INEVITABLE, TOOK WHAT SHELTER THEY COULD AS A STORM OF SHELLS CHURNED UP THE GROUND AND SMOTHERED THE VILLAGE IN SMOKE AND SPOUTING DEBRIS. DEAFENED, STUNNED, THEY GRITTED THEIR TEETH AND WAITED.
STEADY, MEN! THERE'S TO BE NO RETIREMENT!
OF COURSE WE DON'T RETIRE. WE'RE THE GUARDS!

THE ATTACK WAS THE HEAVIEST LAUNCHED BY THE ENEMY FOR WEEKS AND THE TROOPS ON EACH SIDE OF TALIFA WERE OVERWHELMED ...
BUT THE INDOMITABLE GUARDS HELD OUT!

THE NEWS THAT THEY WERE OUT ON A LIMB REACHED THE ONLY REMAINING GUARDS OFFICER AND BROUGHT A SARDONIC SMILE TO HIS BATTLE-STAINED FACE ...
WELL, THEY WERE GOOD LADS AND THEY DID THEIR BEST. BUT AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ONLY INFANTRY OF THE LINE. WE'RE THE GUARDS!

MINUTES LATER, LOW-FLYING STUKAS CAME IN TO MACHINE GUN THE STUBBORN DEFENDERS, JUST AS THE PANZERS BREASTED THE SLOPE, FOLLOWED BY FILES OF TOUGH GERMAN PARATROOPERS.
DON'T WASTE RIFLE FIRE ON THE TANKS, MEN! GET THOSE PIATS READY!

THE PANZERS' GUNS FLAMED AND THUNDERED, BUT THE ROUGH TERRAIN SLOWED DOWN THE IRON MONSTERS AS THEY LUMBERED OVER THE MOUNDS OF RUBBLE. THE MAT TEAMS SEIZED THEIR CHANCE ..
THAT'S ONE PANZER THAT'LL NEVER SEE THE END OF THIS WAR!

THE TANK'S CREW BALED OUT INTO A DEADLY HAIL OF BULLETS.

THIS IS NOT TANK COUNTRY! GENERAL STOLTZ IS A FOOL SENDING US TO CERTAIN DEATH ACH! THESE ENGLANDER GUARDS ARE WIPING OUT OUR WHOLE REGIMENT!
ALL THIS JUST FOR A NO-ACCOUNT VILLAGE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!

AT THE BRITISH H.Q., A RESERVE BATTALION WERE BEING RUSHED UP IN SUPPORT BUT FOR THE MOMENT, THE GUARDS WERE OUT ON THEIR OWN, WITH THE GERMAN PARATROOPERS WORKING AROUND THEIR FLANKS...
HUH! THEY THINK THAT THEY CAN BREAK THE GUARDS BY SURROUNDING US -- THEY'LL NEVER LEARN!

MORTAR SHELLS RAINED ON THE BRITISH POSITION AS THE PARACHUTE TROOPS WORKED CLOSER. SUDDENLY, LIEUTENANT WELLS CRUMPLED...
UGH! TAKE OVER COMMAND, SERGEANT SCARDEN! YOU WILL HOLD OUT UNTIL RELIEVED...
OF COURSE, SIR!
GUARD

THE CRACK GERMAN TROOPS CLOSED IN AND THE GUARDS SURVIVORS MET THEM WITH DEADLY AUTOMATIC FIRE AND A SHOWER OF GRENADES.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF TRADITION STOOD FOUR SQUARE BEHIND THE GUARDS -- AND THEY DID THE IMPOSSIBLE! EVEN THE WOUNDED FOUND STRENGTH TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN THE THIN KHAKI LINE OF DEFENDERS

WHEN HIS THUDDING TOMMY GUN STOPPED, ITS MAGAZINE EMPTY, BIG JIM FLUNG THE WEAPON IN A GERMAN'S FACE. THE MAN STAGGERED BACK AND THE SERGEANT LEAPT FORWARD, HIS BIG FISTS SWINGING ...

HE WAS REACHING FOR ANOTHER WEAPON WHEN A BULLET SMASHED INTO HIS THIGH. HE PITCHED FORWARD, WRITHING IN AGONY...

BUT EVEN THEN, TRADITION AND TRAINING WON. HE GRITTED HIS TEETH AND, WITH THE LAST REMNANTS OF HIS EBBING STRENGTH, KEPT ON FIRING. HIS EXAMPLE SPURRED THE SURVIVORS TO RENEWED ENDEAVOURS.

BIG JIM IS STILL STICKING IT. WE CAN'T LET HIM DOWN!

WHEN THE RELIEVING FORCES ARRIVED THEY FOUND THE BIG GUARDS' SERGEANT UNCONSCIOUS, A PILE OF DEAD GERMANS LYING ALL ROUND HIM ...
OCH, LOOK AT THIS. WILL YE? THEY MUST HAVE FOUGHT LIKE LIONS!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? THEY'RE THE GUARDS!

AS A GRAVELY WOUNDED CASUALTY, BIG JIM SCARDEN WAS FLOWN BACK TO ENGLAND, WHERE HE MADE A SLOW, PAINFUL RECOVERY.
HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE I'M FIT, SIR?
WELL, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO WALK WITHOUT CRUTCHES IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS. BUT EVEN THEN, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT EASY FOR A FEW MORE MONTHS, SERGEANT.

BUT EVEN WHEN HE HAD BEEN WALKING WITHOUT CRUTCHES FOR FIVE WEEKS, HIS LEG STILL GAVE HIM SOME TROUBLE.
WELL, HERE I AM, SIR. FIGHTING FIT AND READY TO GET BACK TO MY UNIT. WHEN DO I GET MY DISCHARGE?
I'M SORRY, SERGEANT. BEFORE YOU CAN RETURN TO THE GUARDS YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE THE MEDICAL BOARD.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, BIG JIM, FULL OF CONFIDENCE, WENT BEFORE THE BOARD...
AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION, SERGEANT, WE HAVE DECIDED YOU ARE NO LONGER FIT ENOUGH TO SERVE IN A CRACK CORPS LIKE THE GUARDS. BUT YOU'RE TOO VALUABLE A MAN TO LOSE.
BUT, SIR, THERE IS *NO* OTHER REGIMENT. I *MUST* GO BACK INTO THE GUARDS!

THERE'S NO QUESTION OF YOUR EVER RETURNING TO THE GUARDS OR TO ANY FIGHTING UNIT, SERGEANT IN FACT, WE ARE HAVING YOU TRANSFERRED TO THE PIONEER CORPS.
GUARD
TO THE WHA-A-AT, SIR?

SERGEANT JIM SCARDEN EXPLODED...
YOU MUST BE JOKING! THE PIONEERS AREN'T SOLDIERS! THEY'RE THE FETCH AND CARRY BOYS, A MOB OF SCRUFFY ROADMENDERS AND ODD-JOB MEN! I'M A GUARDSMEN, AND I WON'T...
SERGEANT--WE HAVE MADE OUR DECISION--YOU WILL ABIDE BY IT!
GUARDS

IT WAS THE TOUGHEST BREAK IN BIG JIM'S WHOLE CAREER AND HE SURVEYED THE FUTURE WITH GROWING BITTERNESS.
OF ALL THE MOBS TO BE SENT TO! I'D RATHER BE A LACKEY TO A GUARDSMAN THAN SERVE IN THE PIONEERS!

Chapter 2. Cold Courage

THE PIONEER BATTALION WERE AT PIRBRIGHT WHEN HE EVENTUALLY REPORTED TO THE ORDERLY ROOM. THE R.S.M. TOOK HIM IN HAND.

YOU'RE TO BE IN COMMAND OF EIGHT PLATOON, SERGEANT WE'RE TRAINING FOR THE INVASION ...

TRAINING ? SHOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT YOU NEEDED TRAINING TO SHIFT DIRT AND CARRY THINGS!

WHEN HE SET EYES ON HIS PLATOON FOR THE FIRST TIME, HIS HEART SANK INTO HIS BOOTS.

HOW THE HECK AM I EVER GOING TO MAKE SOLDIERS OUT OF THIS LOT ?

TO START WITH, SOME OF YOU LOT CAN GET YOUR HAIR CUT! EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT SOLDIERS YOU'RE GOING TO TRY AND LOOK LIKE SOLDIERS!
COR! THIS UN'S GOIN' TO BE A BIT OF A HANDFUL!
PICK 'EM UP THERE! LEFT-RIGHT, LEFT-RIGHT, LEFT-RIGHT...
A RIGHT SQUARE-BASHER WE'VE GOT LUMBERED WITH!
WHERE DOES 'E THINK THIS IS BUCKINGHAM PALACE?
NEXT MORNING, WHEN HE TOOK THEM ON A P.T. RUN, HALF OF THEM FELL OUT IN THE FIRST THREE MINUTES.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, CLARK? AND YOU, DAVIS?
WOUND IN THE KNEE I GOT AT SALERNO, SARGE! I CAN'T MARCH, LET ALONE RUN!
IT'S ME HEART, SAR'NT. ONLY WORKS AT 'ALF SPEED. THEY NEARLY GAVE ME MY TICKET, BUT I'M A BORDERLINE CASE.

THE FOUR MEN WHO GAVE HIM THE MOST TROUBLE WERE "TUBBY" DAVIS, "NOBBY" CLARK, "GINGER" HARRIS AND BILL LOOMS THEY WERE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THEIR PREVIOUS SERGEANT, AN APPARENTLY LEGENDARY CHARACTER CALLED 'ACKER' BARTON
WE'RE THE NAVVIES, SARGE. WE AIN'T EXPECTED TO DO A LOT OF RUNNING ABOUT.
OLD ACKER BARTON UNDERSTOOD US. SAR'NT 'E GAVE US THE WORK WE WERE GOOD AT
IF WE WERE FIT WE WOULDN'T BE IN THE PIONEERS, SARGE.
WE AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE PERISH'N' GUARDSMEN, SARGE. NOW OLD ACKER...
AT MENTION OF THE GUARDS, BIG JIM SCARDEN LET RIP WITH FURIOUS INDIGNATION ...
GUARDS! NOBODY EXPECTS YOU LOT OF SCRUFFY SCRIMSHANKERS TO BE EVEN FIT TO WALK ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE STREET AS THE GUARDS! BUT I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING-- WHILE YOU'RE UNDER ME INSTEAD OF YOUR PERISHIN' 'ACKER' YOU'LL KNOW WHAT DISCIPLINE IS! YOU'RE ALL ON A FIZZER THIS MORNING!

TRUE TO HIS WORD, BIG JIM HAD THE FOUR DEFAULTERS BEFORE THE C.O.
..AND ALL FOUR ARE ON THE SAME CHARGE, SIR--INSUBORDINATION AND UNSOLDIERLY APPEARANCE

THE COLONEL DISMISSED ALL THE CHARGES WITH A SEVERE REPRIMAND--AND THEN HAD A WORD WITH SERGEANT SCARDEN.
GO EASY ON THESE MEN, SERGEANT. THEY'RE ALL GOOD MEN, AS YOU'LL FIND WHEN THE BALLOON GOES UP. MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN UNDER FIRE. THEY'RE NOT DODGING THE COLUMN.
VERY GOOD, SIR.

THE FOUR PIONEERS WERE FULL OF THEMSELVES WHEN BIG JIM LEFT THE C.O.'S OFFICE ...
WELL OLD 'BLOOD AND THUNDER' SCARDEN DIDN'T GET ANY CHANGE OUT OF THE OLD MAN!
P'RAPS HE'LL EASE UP ON US A BIT NOW.
'IM AND 'IS BLINKIN' GUARDS!
IF ONLY WE HAD OLD ACKER BACK!
ORDERLY ROOM

AFTER THAT, BIG JIM WAS NOT QUITE SO REGIMENTAL, BUT HE WAS STILL FAR STRICTER THAN 'ICKER' HAD EVER BEEN...
OKAY, SO YOU PERISHERS AREN'T SOLDIERS, BUT NAVVIES! RIGHT! I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU'RE THE BEST NAVVIES IN THE WHOLE BRITISH ARMY! THIS MACHINE OF YOURS IS IN A SHOCKING STATE, CLARK. SEE THAT IT'S OILED AND SPOTLESSLY CLEAN BY TOMORROW!

AT LAST CAME D-DAY AND CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF THE FIRST WAVES OF INFANTRY WAS THE 625TH POWER BATTALION. THEIR TASK WAS TO UNLOAD THE AMMUNITION AND STORES THAT EACH LANDING CRAFT CARRIED
COME ON, EIGHT PLATOON! GET CRACKING!

IN THE FIRST RUSH AFTER THE BOMBARDMENT HAD LIFTED, THE INFANTRY HAD REACHED COVER — BUT THERE WAS NO COVER FOR THE PIONEERS AS THEY SWEATED AND TOILED ACROSS THE SHELL-SWEPT BEACH.

RUSH IT UP, LOOMIS! THE QUICKER YOU ARE, THE LONGER YOU'LL LIVE!

IN THE NEXT HOUR, THE ENEMY CONCENTRATED HEAVY SHELLFIRE ON THE LANDING CRAFT AND THE PIONEERS LOST A THIRD OF THEIR MEN -- BUT NOT ONCE DID THEY TAKE COVER.

BIG JIM FELT A GRUDGING ADMIRATION FOR THE COURAGE OF HIS MEN A COLD COURAGE THAT DID NOT HAVE THE FIRE OF HOT ACTION TO FAN IT.

COME ON, THE NAVVIES! WE'LL SHOW THE INFANTRY HOW TO DO IT!

WELL, THEIR NERVE'S GOOD! I'LL SAY THAT FOR THEM. BUT SOLDIERS — NO!

MORE VEHICLES WERE GRINDING ASHORE EVERY MINUTE BUT THE BEACH EXITS WERE CHOKED AND A HUGE TRAFFIC JAM WAS BUILDING UP. THE BEACH-MASTER APPEALED TO THE PIONEERS' C.O.

CAN YOU GET SOME OF YOUR MEN TO CUT MORE EXITS? IT'S VITAL!

BEACH MASTER

RIGHT — THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR!

SERGEANT SCARDEN WAS ORDERED TO PUT HIS PLATOON ON THE JOB AND THEY WENT AT IT LIKE MANIACS WITH PICK AND SHOVEL.
ALL THE TIME, SHELLS AND LONG-RANGE MACHINE GUN FIRE WAS SWEEPING THE DUNES ALL AROUND THEM.

SUDDENLY A LANDMINE WENT UP WITH A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION THAT BLASTED TWO MEN INTO ETERNITY ONLY A FEW YARDS FROM WHERE BIG JIM WAS WORKING.

TUBBY DAVIS, BILL LOOMIS AND GINGER HARRIS LICKED THEIR LIPS NERVOUSLY AND LOOKED AT THEIR SERGEANT ...
THIS PLACE IS THICK WITH MINES, SARGE. WE OUGHT TO GET THE MINE DETECTOR BOYS ON THE JOB!
NO TIME FOR THAT! A LOT OF OUR DETECTORS WENT UP IN THAT LANDING CRAFT AND ALL OUR EXPERTS ARE SWEEPING A TRACK FOR THE CANADIANS.

AS AN EX-GUARDSMAN, JIM SCARDEN KNEW HE HAD TO SHOW NO FEAR, BUT HIS STOMACH CONTRACTED AT THE THOUGHT THAT EVERY BLOW OF THE PICK MIGHT STRIKE ANOTHER MINE ...
STAND BACK! I'LL LEAD THE WAY--YOU CAN FOLLOW AFTER I'VE TESTED THE GROUND.

THE PRIVATES LOOKED AT EACH OTHER--TUBBY DAVIS SUMMONED A GRIN...
IF YOU CAN CHANCE IT, SO CAN WE, SARGE! JUST WAIT TILL I SPIT ON ME 'ANDS!

THEY HAD NEARLY FINISHED THEIR JOB WHEN A FRANTIC SHOUT CAME FROM TUBBY...
LOOK OUT, SARGE! BY YOUR RIGHT FOOT! DON'T MOVE!
S G JIM SCARDEN FROZE IN HORROR. HIS FOOT ONLY INCHES FROM A MINE.

VERY GINGERLY, TUBBY WENT DOWN ON ONE KNEE AND BEGAN TO SCRAPE AWAY THE SAND.

ONLY WHEN TUBBY HAD REMOVED THE FUSE DID THEY ALL RELAX...
THANKS, DAVIS! I WON'T FORGET THIS!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, SARGE. WE NAVVIES DON'T THINK ANYTHING OF LITTLE JOBS LIKE THIS!

AS SOON AS THE ROAD WAS OPEN, BRITISH ARMOUR AND ANTI-TANK GUNS BEGAN TO ROLL THROUGH, BUT THERE WAS NO REST FOR THE PIONEERS ...

THEY KEPT GOING EVEN THOUGH JERRY WAS STILL SHELLING THE VERY BEACHHEAD THEY WERE DIGGING.

TOWARDS THE END OF ONE OF THE LONGEST DAYS THE PIONEERS HAD EVER LIVED THROUGH, A COMPANY OF INFANTRY CAME STRIDING ASHORE FROM A LANDING CRAFT. SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR STALWART FIGURES AND PROUD BEARING CAUGHT S G JIM'S EYE.

AHA! *REAL* SOLDIERS... THE GUARDS! THE FIRST OF THE FOLLOW-UP TROOPS!

X8!

THE FIRST BATTALION ASHORE WERE THE SCOTS, BUT LATER HE RECOGNISED MEN OF HIS OWN BATTALION -- AND SOME OF THEM RECOGNISED HIM!
HEY, BOYS, LOOK WHO'S HERE! SERGEANT SCARDEN CAN YOU BEAT IT, A BLOOMING ROADMENDER!

IT WAS GOOD NATURED KIDDING, BUT IT BIT DEEP INTO BIG JIM'S HEART, AND HIS BITTERNESS GREW.
I OUGHT TO BE WITH THEM! I'M JUST AS FIT AS THEY ARE -- YET HERE I AM, STUCK WITH THE PIONEERS, THE LOWEST FORM OF MILITARY LIFE!
PIONEER CORPS

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, THE PIONEERS GOT LITTLE REST ALL THE WHILE. THE BIG SERGEANT WOULD WATCH ENVIOUSLY AS OTHER TROOPS MOVED UP TOWARDS THE BATTLE
FRONT LINE SOLDIERS! WHAT WOULDN'T I GIVE TO BE GOING UP WITH THEM!

ONE DAY, THEY WERE UNLOADING SHELLS AND STACKING THEM IN SCATTERED PILES IN EVERY WOOD, READY FOR THE NEXT ADVANCE. IT WAS HOT WORK AND THEY TOILED UNTIL THEY WERE READY TO DROP ..
COME ON, YOU NAVVIES! THE HARDER YOU WORK, SOONER YOU'LL BE FINISHED.
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT SARGE, THE MORE WE DO, THE MORE THEY GIVE US!

AFTER WORKING FROM DAWN TILL LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, THEY MARCHED BACK TO THE ORCHARD WHERE THEY WERE BIVOUACKED BUT HARDLY HAD THEY SUNK TO THE GROUND EXHAUSTED, BEFORE THE GERMANS BEGAN TO SHELL THE WOODS FIERCELY
THEY'RE AFTER THAT AMMO!
THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T PUT IT ALL IN ONE BIG DUMP. IF ONE PILE GOES UP IT WON'T SET OFF THE OTHERS.

BUT THE SHELLING SET THE TINDER-DRY UNDERGROWTH ABLAZE AND THE FLAMES, FANNED BY THE WIND, STARTED A ROARING FOREST FIRE. ALMOST AT ONCE, THE PIONEERS WERE CALLED OUT.
FALL IN THE PIONEERS! WE'VE GOT TO PUT OUT THAT FIRE!
WHAT, US AGAIN? AIN'T THERE ANY ABLE-BODIED TROOPS IN NORMANDY BUT US? WHAT ABOUT THAT GUARDS BATTALION SNORING THEIR 'EADS OFF NEAR THAT FARM? CAN'T THEY TURN OUT?

SERGEANT SCARDEN LET OUT A BELLOW OF INDIGNATION ...
THE GUARDS HAVE JUST COME BACK FROM THE BIG ATTACK! THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING!

LORRIES RUSHED THE PIONEERS TO THE WOODS AND SHELLS WERE STILL FALLING HEAVILY AS THEY FOUGHT THE FLAMES.
KEEP IT UP, LADS!

SUDDENLY, THERE WAS THE OMINOUS WHISTLE OF A SHELL, FOLLOWED BY A TREMENDOUS CRASH. A FEW SECONDS OF SILENCE—AND THEN CAME THE WAILING CRY OF A BADLY WOUNDED MAN
THAT SHELL GOT SOMEBODY!

THE SERGEANT HEADED BLINDLY THROUGH THE SMOKE, UNTIL HE SPOTTED TUBBY DAVIS LYING A FEW FEET FROM ONE OF THE SHELL PILES.
TUBBY! ARE YOU HURT BAD?

ALREADY FLAMES WERE LEAPING AROUND THE SHELLS ...
LEAVE ME -- SARN'T THOSE PLOPPING SHELLS ARE GOING OFF ANY MOMENT NO NEED FOR BOTH OF US ..
SAVE YOUR BREATH, LAD!

THE BIG SERGEANT LIFTED TUBBY AS THOUGH HE WERE NO MORE THAN A BABY AND CARRIED HIM OUT OF THE BLAZING INFERNO ...

ABOUT THIRTY YARDS FROM THE SHELLS HE FOUND A SUNKEN TRACK AND THERE HE PUT TUBBY DOWN. THEY HAD SCARCELY LAID FLAT WHEN THERE WAS AN EARTH-SHAKING EXPLOSION.
PHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE ENOUGH!

BEFORE THE STRETCHER BEARERS EVENTUALLY CARRIED TUBBY AWAY, BIG JIM HAD A LAST WORD WITH HIM.
THANKS, SAR'NT!
FORGET IT! YOU SAVED ME ON D DAY REMEMBER?

IF OLD BLOOD AND THUNDER COULD FORGET HE'D BEEN IN THE GUARDS, HE'D BE ALMOST HUMAN.
YEAH! HE'S NOT FRIGHTENED OF ANYTHING

BY NIGHTFALL, THE FIRE WAS OUT BUT THERE WAS STILL NO REST FOR THE PIONEERS. THEY NOW HAD TO CLEAR AWAY THE BRUSH FROM BETWEEN THE SHELL PILES SO THAT FRESH FIRES WOULD NOT START.
WHY THE HECK DID THEY CHOOSE THESE WOODS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
NO SENSE, THE TOP BRASS! THEY SHOULD 'AVE PUT THE STUFF IN OPEN FIELDS.
AT LONG LAST, THE PIONEERS WERE WITHDRAWN FOR A REST AND THE BATTALION RECEIVED HIGH PRAISE FOR THEIR WORK. KNOWING THAT THE C.O. WOULD BE IN A GOOD MOOD, SERGEANT SCARDEN WENT TO SEE HIM.
WOULD YOU RECOMMEND ME FOR ANOTHER MEDICAL BOARD, SIR? I WANT TO GET BACK IN THE GUARDS. AFTER ALL I'VE DONE THESE LAST FEW WEEKS THEY CAN'T SAY I'M NOT FIT!
WELL, I SHALL BE SORRY TO SEE YOU GO, SERGEANT— BUT I'LL SEND IN A RECOMMENDATION.

Chapter 3. The Tunnel

BY THE END OF JUNE, THE GERMANS HAD RECOVERED FROM THE FIRST SHOCK OF THE INVASION, AND WERE NOW FIGHTING SAVAGELY FOR EVERY VILLAGE AND WOOD. IN THE ODON SECTOR, THE STEEP AND WOODED MONT COURCY WAS A FORMIDABLE STRONGPOINT, AND MANY BRAVE MEN DIED IN THE FRUITLESS FRONTAL ASSAULTS ON IT.

THEN ONE OF THE BRIGADIERS HAD A BRILLIANT INSPIRATION ...
...A RAILWAY USED TO RUN RIGHT THROUGH MONT COURCY YEARS AGO, SIR. THE TUNNEL IS STILL THERE! IT'S BLOCKED IN SEVERAL PLACES, BUT THE POINT IS, ONE END OF THE TUNNEL IS IN OUR HANDS AND THE OTHER END IN GERMAN TERRITORY!

IF WE CAN CLEAR THAT TUNNEL, WE CAN PASS A PICKED FORCE THROUGH TO TAKE THE ENEMY IN THE REAR --AND MONT COURCY WILL BE OURS!
IT DEPENDS ON HOW FAST WE CAN CLEAR THE TUNNEL --AND THE QUALITY OF THE ATTACKING TROOPS.

THE C.O. OF 825 BATTALION, PIONEER CORPS, WAS TOLD TO FIND FIFTY PICKED MEN.
THIS IS A SECRET AND VITAL JOB. ONLY A FEW MEN AT A TIME CAN BE EMPLOYED IN THE TUNNEL, THEREFORE, I ONLY WANT VOLUNTEERS...

'E'S GOT A 'OPE!

FIRST THING I WAS TOLD WHEN I JOINED UP WAS — NEVER VOLUNTEER FOR ANYTHING!

ANYONE THAT STEPS FORWARD NEEDS 'IS 'EAD EXAMINED!

BIG JIM WAITED IN ASTONISHMENT. IF VOLUNTEERS HAD BEEN ASKED FOR IN A GUARDS BATTALION THE WHOLE BATTALION WOULD HAVE STEPPED FORWARD AS ONE MAN.

THE SCRIMSHANKERS! NO SPIRIT! NO REGIMENTAL PRIDE! FANCY ME BEING STUCK WITH THIS LOT!

IMPULSIVELY, HE HIMSELF STEPPED SMARTLY FORWARD...

I'M SPEAKING FOR EIGHT PLATOON, SIR. WE WILL VOLUNTEER. WE'RE FITTER THAN THE OTHER PLATOONS. WE ALSO HAVE MEN WHO ARE EXPERT EARTH-SHIFTERS AND TUNNELLERS.

NOBBY, BILL AND GINGER LISTENED IN HORROR...
YARK AT YM! VOLUNTEERING OUR LIVES AWAY!
HE'S STONE-COLD, STARING BONKERS!
FRESHER, HE SAYS! FITTER! WE'RE OUT ON OUR FEET!
THE COLONEL BEAMED HIS PLEASURE, AND GAVE No.8 PLATOON THE JOB. BUT IF BIG JIM WAS PLEASED, NO ONE ELSE IN THE PLATOON WAS.
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF STICKING OUR NECKS OUT, SARGE?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE SPEAKING FOR THE PLATOON? AIN'T WE DONE ENOUGH ALREADY?
BELT UP! THE NEXT MAN WHO MAKES A CRACK WILL BE ON A FIZZER--AND I DON'T MEAN MAYBE!

No.8 PLATOON MOVED UP TO THE TUNNEL END THAT NIGHT BY LORRY, WITH NOBBY CLARK FOLLOWING WITH HIS BULLDOZER ON A TANK-TRANSPORTER. THE DARKNESS WAS CONTINUALLY PIERCED WITH SHELL BURSTS AND CUT BY LINES OF TRACER. A MAJOR GAVE THEM DIRECTIONS...
..YOU WON'T HAVE TO CLEAR THE WHOLE TUNNEL, IT IS ONLY BLOCKED IN A FEW PLACES.

BIG JIM DROVE HIS MEN MERCILESSLY...
EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON US CLEARING THIS TUNNEL QUICKLY. THE INFANTRY ARE READY TO COME THROUGH, AND THE DIVISIONS ON THE FLANKS ARE ALL SET FOR THE BIG PUSH. THE WHOLE ARMY IS WAITING FOR US!
THAT'LL BE A CHANGE! THE ARMY HAS KEPT ME WAITING OFTEN ENOUGH!

WHEN NOBBY CLARK BEGAN TO GRUMBLE, THE BIG SERGEANT ROUNDED ON HIM FIERCELY...
OVERWORKED? YOU? THE OTHER MEN AT LEAST SWEAT, BUT ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SIT THERE AND PULL A FEW LEVERS. YOU'VE GOT THE CUSHIEST JOB. SO MAKE SURE YOU DO IT WELL!
WORKING NIGHT AND DAY IN TWO SHIFTS, THE PLATOON HAD ALMOST FINISHED THE JOB IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.
THE BULLDOZER MAKES TOO MUCH OF A RACKET, IT MIGHT ALERT JERRY. THESE LAST FEW YARDS MUST BE DONE BY HAND--AND BE AS QUIET AS YOU CAN!
BEFORE DAWN, THE BRITISH GUNS OPENED UP AND SQUADRONS OF BOMBERS DRONED OVER TO PLASTER THE GERMAN LINES. THIS WAS THE BIG MOMENT, AND THE INFANTRY FILED INTO THE TUNNEL. THEY WERE THE GUARDS!
GOOD LUCK, MATES!

IT WAS A BLOW FROM BIG JIM HIMSELF THAT OPENED UP THE TUNNEL, LETTING IN DAYLIGHT...
NOW WE'VE GOT TO WIDEN THIS -- AND DOUBLE-QUICK!

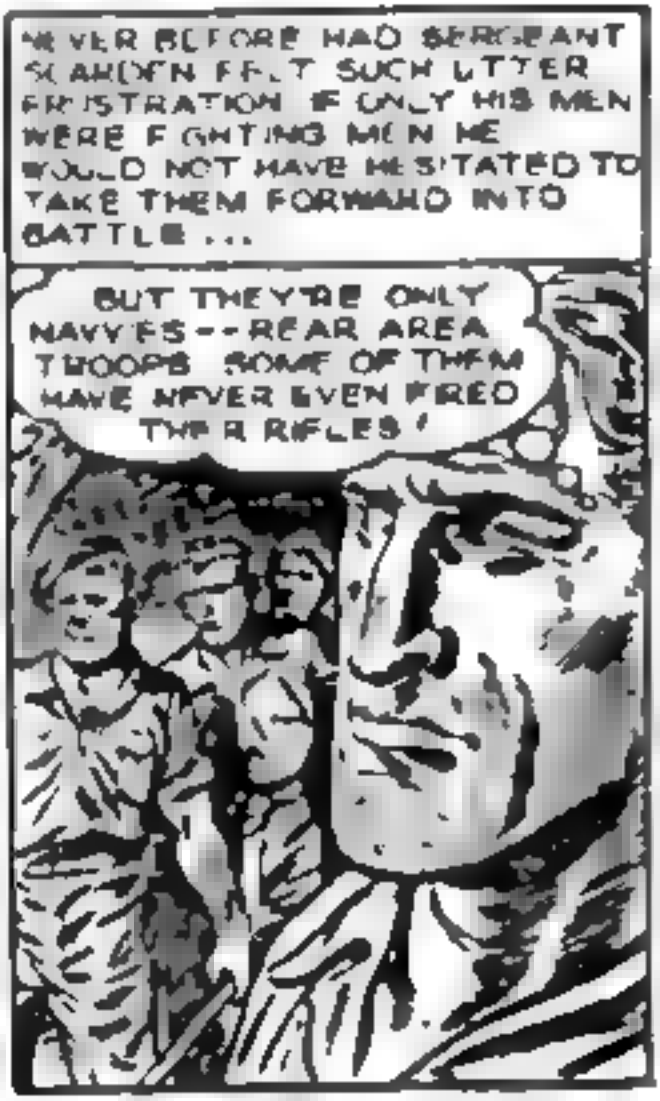
AS IT HAPPENED, SOME GERMAN TROOPS WERE SHELTERING FROM THE BOMBARDMENT CLOSE TO THEIR ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL. THE GUARDS BURST OUT UPON THEM WITH A BERSERK RUSH.

BUT, BY A STROKE OF ILL-FORTUNE, TWO GERMAN BATTALIONS WERE IN RESERVE POSITIONS OVERLOOKING THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE. AS THE GUARDS FANNED OUT INTO THE OPEN THEY CAME UNDER HEAVY FIRE...
UP AND AT 'EM, THE GUARDS!

LESSER TROOPS MIGHT HAVE PANICKED, BUT THE GUARDS, OBEYING ORDERS COOLLY GIVEN, CHARGED UP THE SLOPE OF THE VALLEY AND FORCED A WAY TO HIGHER GROUND.

AS THE VALLEY ECHOED TO THE CRASH OF BOMBS AND THE RATTLE OF SCHMEISSER AND RIFLE FIRE, SERGEANT SCARDEN AND SOME OF HIS MEN WATCHED FROM THE TUNNEL MOUTH...
LOOK AT 'EM GO! YOU FELLERS COULD LEARN A LOT FROM AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT!

SOON THE LAST TWO PLATOONS OF GUARDSMEN CAME FORMING THROUGH AT THE DOUBLE, TO BE SWALLOWED UP AT ONCE IN THE MAELSTROM OF THE BATTLE.
I'M THE LAST MAN. YOU BLOKES CAN GO HOME NOW!


NEVER BEFORE HAD SERGEANT SCARDEN FELT SUCH UTTER FRUSTRATION. IF ONLY HIS MEN WERE FIGHTING MEN HE WOULD NOT HAVE HESITATED TO TAKE THEM FORWARD INTO BATTLE...
BUT THEY'RE ONLY NAVIES -- REAR AREA TROOPS. SOME OF THEM HAVE NEVER EVEN FIRED THEIR RIFLES!

BUT THEN HE NOTICED A PARTY OF GERMANS WITH SPANDAUS DASHING OVER THE SKYLINE...
LOOK AT THOSE JERRY GUNNERS! THEY'LL BE SHOOTING STRAIGHT AT THE BACKS OF THE GUARDS! COME ON, GET YOUR RIFLES! WE JUST CAN'T STAND HERE AND WATCH!

THE BIG SERGEANT EXPECTED GRUMBLES FROM THE WEARY MEN, BUT INSTEAD THEY WERE GRINNING!
WONDERED WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT, SARGE!
IF OLD ACKER 'AD BEEN 'ERE, WE WOULD 'AVE BEEN STUCK IN LONG BEFORE TH S!

THEY HAD LEFT THEIR RIFLES ABOUT A HUNDRED YARDS BACK IN THE TUNNEL NEAR THE PARKED BULLDOZER. THE SIGHT OF THE BULLDOZER GAVE THE SERGEANT AN IDEA.
CLARK, GET ON THAT PERSHING MACHINE OF YOURS, AND START IT UP. THIS IS A CHANCE TO CARVE YOURSELF A SLICE OF GLORY!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SAR'NT!

UNDER THE BIG SERGEANT'S DIRECTIONS, NOBBY DROVE OUT OF THE TUNNEL AND STRAIGHT TOWARDS THE GERMAN MACHINE-GUNNERS.
TUCK YOURSELVES IN BEHIND THE BULLDOZER— AND JERRY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A BEAD ON YOU UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE VALLEY THE GUARDS WERE ALREADY FALLING TO THE FIRE FROM THE REAR ...
THEY'VE GOT BEHIND US!
IF THOSE SPANDAUS AREN'T SILENCED SOON, WE'VE HAD IT!

THE GERMAN MACHINE-GUNNERS SPOTTED THE BULLDOZER GRINDING AND WADDLING TOWARDS THEM. A SNARLING ORDER RASPED OUT FROM THE LEUTNANT IN COMMAND...
THOSE CRAZY ENGLANDERS! THEY ARE BRINGING UP THEIR EARTH-MOVING MACHINES! SWING YOUR GUNS ON THEM! [illegible]!

NOBBY HAD RAISED THE GREAT STEEL SHOVEL SO THAT IT TURNED AN IMPENETRABLE SHIELD AGAINST THE WHISTLING HAIL OF BULLETS.
GET READY, LADS! A BIT CLOSER — AND WE'LL RUSH THEM!

BULLETS CRACKED AND CLANGED OFF THE BULLDOZER. THEN AN UNLUCKY RICOCHET HIT NOBBY AND HE SLUMPED SIDEWAYS ...

ALTHOUGH HE WAS GRAVELY WOUNDED, NOBBY CLARK GRITTED HIS TEETH AND DROVE ON, JUST BEFORE HE REACHED THE SPANDAU, HE LOWERED THE GREAT SHOVEL AND OPENED THE THROTTLE .

THEN HE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE OTHER GUNS, PUSHING A PILE OF EARTH IN FRONT OF HIM. SEEING THE FATE OF THEIR COMRADES, THE GERMANS TOOK TO THEIR HEELS ...
HIMMEL! THESE ENGLANDERS ARE MAD!

AN EXULTANT YELL BURST FROM BIG JIM SCARDEN AS HE RUSHED FORWARD IN HOT PURSUIT...
COME ON, LADS -- GET STUCK INTO 'EM!

THE PIONEERS NEEDED NO ENCOURAGEMENT AND THREW THEMSELVES AT THE ENEMY LIKE MEN POSSESSED.
UP THE PICK AND [redacted] BOYS!
A CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS, HALF BLINDED BY SMOKE AND DUST, PEERED BACK ACROSS THE VALLEY AS THE MURDEROUS FIRE MIRACULOUSLY CEASED.
WHO ARE THOSE MEN? SOME OF THE ARMOURED DIVISION?
NO, SIR — THAT'S NOT A TANK — IT'S A BULLDOZER! THOSE BLOKES ARE THE PIONEERS!

THE PIONEERS' ACTION ENCED ALL TOO SOON AND THEY THIRSTED FOR MORE
WHAT NOW, SARGE?
WE'LL GET UP TO THE TOP OF THE SLOPE AND COVER THE GUARDS' REAR THERE MAY BE MORE JERRIES WHERE THOSE SPANDAU GUNNERS CAME FROM.

IT WAS A SHREWD MOVE, FOR HARDLY HAD THE PIONEERS TAKEN UP POSITION FACING WEST WHEN A GERMAN BATTLE GROUP CAME FILTERING THROUGH THE WOODS WHICH WERE BEING HEAVILY BOMBED BY LANCASTERS.
WE MUST HOLD THIS SIDE OF THE OLD RAILWAY CUTTING AND OUTFLANK THE ENGLANDERS

AS THE GERMANS NEARED THE VALLEY RIM THEY RAN INTO DEADLY AND UNEXPECTED FIRE ...
THAT'S THE STUFF TO GIVE THE JERRIES! KEEP IT UP, THE NAVVIES!

BUT THE GERMAN BATTLE GROUP WAS SOON BEING REINFORCED AND THE THREAT FROM THAT DIRECTION GREW RAPIDLY.
SMITHY, TAKE A MESSAGE TO THE GUARDS ACROSS THE VALLEY TELL THEM THE JERRIES ARE STARTING A FULL-SCALE ATTACK ON THIS SIDE AND WE NEED HELP. IF THEY DRIVE US OFF HERE, THE GUARDS ARE GONNA BE IN REAL TROUBLE!
OKAY, SARGE!

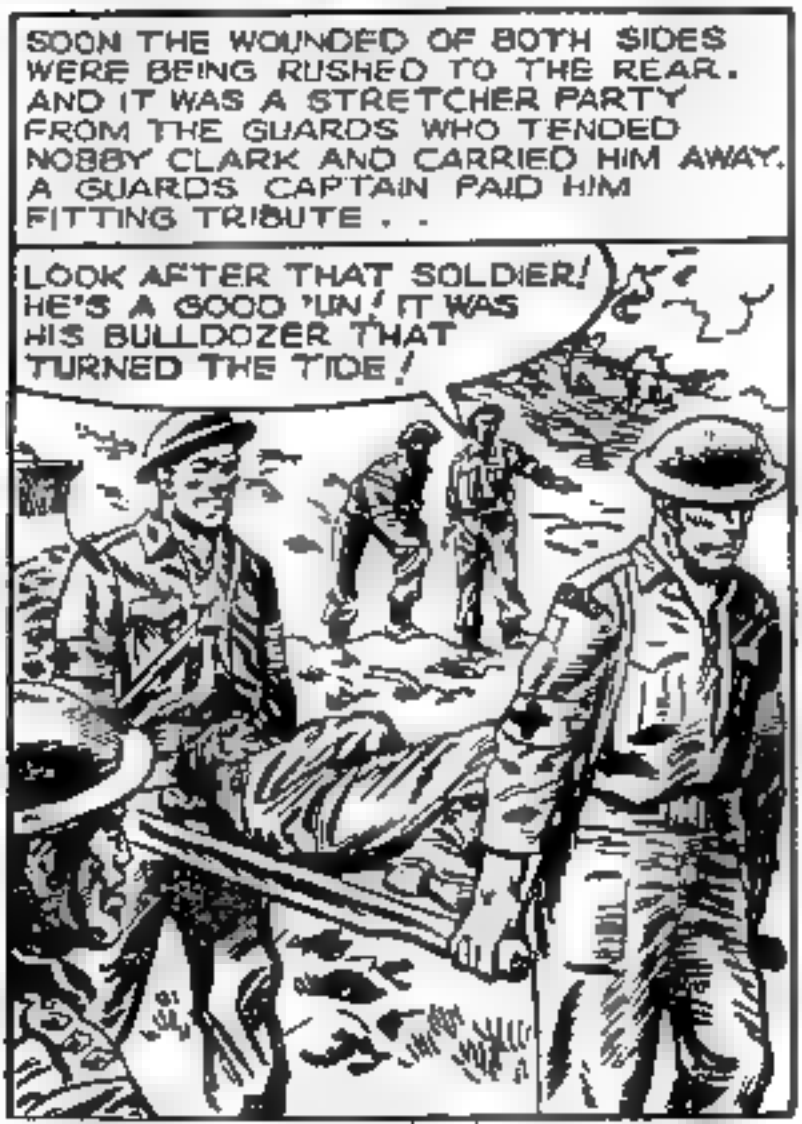
HARD PRESSED THOUGH THEY WERE, THE GUARDS AT ONCE SENT ONE PLATOON ACROSS THE VALLEY TO REINFORCE THE PIONEERS ON RECEIVING BILL'S MESSAGE
LUMME! ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
WELL, WE WERE GLAD TO SEE YOU A LITTLE WHILE BACK JERRY HAD US COLD!

SO IT WAS THAT GUARDS AND PIONEERS FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE IN ONE OF THE FIERCEST LITTLE ENGAGEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN.
FORWARD! THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OF THE ACCURSED ENGLANDERS!

IF THE GERMANS COULD HAVE LINED THE RAVINE IN FORCE THEY COULD HAVE TURNED THE TIDE — BUT THE COMBINED BRITISH FORCES HELD, BLASTING THE GERMANS BACK IN FEROCIOUS HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP, JERRY? YOU'RE UP AGAINST TWO OF THE BEST REGIMENTS IN THE ARMY!

BY NOW, THE THUNDER OF THE GENERAL BATTLE WAS RISING TO A TREMENDOUS CLIMAX AS THE BRITISH DIVISIONS ON EACH SIDE OF MONT COURCY SURGED FORWARD.
THE FRONT IS CRACKING! TELL STOFFEL TO SEND IN HIS RESERVES!
BUT THERE ARE NO RESERVES, AVAILABLE HERR GENERAL! THEY ARE ALL ENGAGED WITH THE ENEMY FORCE THAT CAME THROUGH THE TUNNEL!

DRAMATICALLY AND SUDDENLY, THE GERMAN FRONT BROKE BOTH AT MONT COURCY AND ON THE FLANKS. THE GERMANS FACING THE GUARDS MELTED AWAY, AND THE DEFENDERS OF THE MONT COURCY STRONGPOINT CAME STREAMING DOWN THE HILL, HANDS HELD HIGH.


SOON THE WOUNDED OF BOTH SIDES WERE BEING RUSHED TO THE REAR. AND IT WAS A STRETCHER PARTY FROM THE GUARDS WHO TENDED NOBBY CLARK AND CARRIED HIM AWAY. A GUARDS CAPTAIN PAID HIM FITTING TRIBUTE . .
LOOK AFTER THAT SOLDIER! HE'S A GOOD 'UN! IT WAS HIS BULLDOZER THAT TURNED THE TIDE!

THEN THE MAJOR COMMANDING THE GUARDS BATTALION DETACHMENT SPOKE TO BIG JIM ...
THANK YOU, SERGEANT! IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU AND YOUR MEN!

THE SURVIVORS OF No.8 PLATOON SLEPT IN THE TUNNEL THAT NIGHT AND NEXT MORNING MARCHED BACK TO REJOIN THEIR BATTALION. AS THEY TRAMPED THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF REMY-BOCAGE, SERGEANT SCARDEN STARED AS THOUGH HE COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EYES. QUICKLY, HE BROUGHT HIS MEN TO THE SLOPE.
A COMPANY OF GUARDS! DRAWN UP TO SALUTE US! US! THE NAVVIES! WHAT AN HONOUR!
COMPA...NY! PRESENT ARMS!

INSTINCTIVELY, THE DIRTY, TATTERED NAVVIES STRAIGHTENED THEIR BACKS AND SWUNG ALONG PROUDLY...
E...Y...E...S... RIGHT!

WHEN No.8 PLATOON EVENTUALLY REJOINED THE PIONEER BATTALION, THE COLONEL SENT FOR SERGEANT "BIG JIM" SCARDEN TO CONGRATULATE HIM.

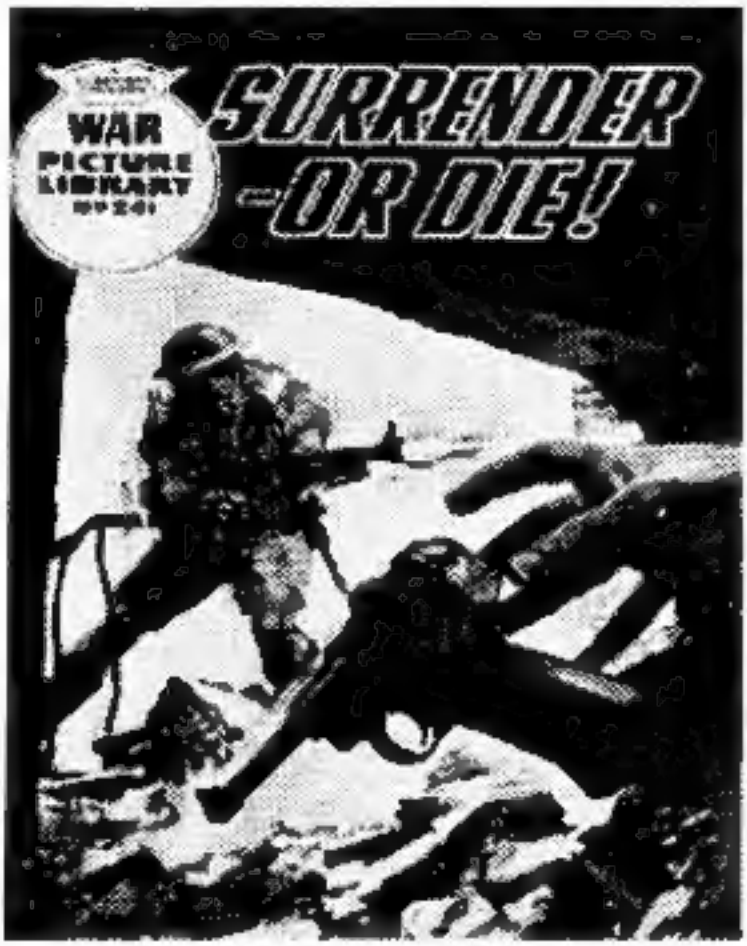
Printed in England by Messrs. Percy Brothers Ltd., Manchester 1, and published each month by Fleetway Publications Ltd., Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4. Advertisement Offices: Tallis House, Tallis Street, London, E.C.4. Second class postage paid at New York Post Office, New York. Sole Agents: Australasia, Messrs. Gordon & Gotch Ltd. South African Central News Agency Ltd. Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Messrs. Kingstons Ltd. WAR PICTURE LIBRARY is sold subject to the following conditions, that it shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first given, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of Trade except at the full retail price as shown on the cover, and that it shall not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition, or in any unauthorised cover by way of Trade or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever. 4/8/64

ALSO ON SALE NOW

FOR WAR THRILLS . . . ACTION . . . DRAMA . . .

WAR PICTURE LIBRARY

No. 241—SURRENDER—OR DIE!



He blundered into hair-raising action and won for himself a place in a combat team without equal.

No. 242—THE SECRET ENEMY

A murderer stalked the decks of the aircraft carrier, striking viciously and without warning.

ALSO ON SALE NOW :—

No. 240—LAST CHARGE

Next month's **FOUR** thrilling **WAR PICTURE LIBRARY** issues, on sale 1st June, are :—

No. 244—THE SIEGE

No. 245—BLIND JUDGMENT

No. 246—TRAIL BLAZERS

No. 247—THE DARK JUNGLE

GIANT STAMP COLLECTION

Fabulous bargain offer includes many superb sets of unusual stamps : **TOGO** Stamp Centenary set of 3 (Show rare old German Colonial stamps !) **MONGOLIA** Stupendous Rocket set of 2. **RUSSIA** scarce 1944 Allied Flags (Value 3/-). **ALBANIA** old imperforate set of 2. **GT. BRITAIN** 1936 Edward VIII set of 3 ; 1937 Coronation. **CHILE** mint airmail set of 3. **UPPER VOLTA**—diamond shape. **CAMEROONS** Telstar. Dozens of other fascinating stamps from all over the world. Grand total of 120 all different (worth 8/6 plus) all yours for only 1/- to introduce our bargain approvals. (Approvals are the most interesting and economical way to build a collection. Selections of stamps are sent to you for 10 days free inspection. Buy what you want, return the rest.)

SEND COUPON WITH 1/- TODAY. OR WRITE ASKING FOR LOT P. 33

BROADWAY APPROVALS
50, DENMARK HILL,
LONDON, S.E.5.

I ENCLOSE 1/-, RUSH ME 120 different stamps. Send a selection of Bargain Approvals for free examination.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... Lot No. P. 33

Please tell your parents you are answering this advertisement